Vol. IX. Numb. 19

THE OBSERVATOR.

On Dr. Sacheverell's *being found guilty. On the continu'd rebellious Practices of his Mob. Their breaking up the Serjeant of the* Scotch *Granadiers Houſe, with a Deſign to murder him, becauſe of of his Bravery in ſuppreſſing the Tumult. A farther Account of the Buſineſs of* Wolverhampton. *More Remarks on* Sacheverell's *Speech. His Practice condemn'd by the Lord Arch-biſhop of* York's *Sermon, that he wreſted.*

From Saturday, March 18. to Wednesday, March 22. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT News of Dr. *Sacheverell* now, *Roger?* When is he to be made a Biſhop? You know his ſilly Mob have prepar'd a Mitre for him long ago, as a Reward of his Doctrine.

Country-m. I know that well enough, Maſter; but they muſt have Patience 'till the Pretender get the Crown; for no other Government but one *a-la-mode de France* will ever advance a Preacher of Slavery and Tyranny. Our noble Patriots, the Lords, have found him guilty of all the Articles of Impeachment exhibited againſt him by the Commons of *Great Britain*; ſo that there remains nothing now to be done, but Judgment to be demanded, and Sentence pronounc'd againſt him.

Obſ. May the Bleſſing of God, as I doubt not it will, *Roger*, be upon the Head of our moſt gracious Sovereign the Queen, and on thoſe of both Houſes, for their wiſe and noble Conduct in this Affair. I hope that this, and what other Proceedings our Legiſlature ſhall, in their great Wiſdom, think neceſſary, will effectually ſecure her Majeſty's Perſon and Government, the legal Prerogative of the Crown, the juſt Liberties of the People, the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and our Religion, as by Law eſtabliſh'd, againſt ſuch daring Inſults, and rebellious Tumults in Time to come, and that the Minds of the People, whom the wretched Faction have been ſo many Years endeavouring to poyſon with uncharitable Principles towards their Fellow Proteſtants all over the World, and with rebellious Maxims againſt our Conſtitution, will now be ſet right, ſo as to be no more endanger'd by ſuch Wolves in Sheeps Clothing.

Country-m. I hope ſo too, Maſter, ſince the greateſt Part of our right reverend Biſhops have acquitted themſelves in this Matter, as became their high Character and Station, wherein they are ſeconded by ſo many of our reverend and worthy Clergy, who aſſert our due Chriſtian Liberty, for which they have the Prayers of all true Church-men, as well as of Diſſenters. But I can tell you, Maſter, that the Faction do ſtill continue to ſhew their brutiſh Fury in ſome Places. We have had Accounts from *Doncaſter* in *Yorkſhire*, that the ſeditious Mob there aſſembl'd tumultuouſly in the Night, and knock'd down all they met in the Streets, that would not declare for High-Church and *Sacheverell*; and ſome of them, in Purſuance of their bloody Deſign, did laſt Week break up the Houſe of the Serjeant of the *Scotch* Granadiers, with a Purpoſe to have murder'd him, becauſe of the Zeal and Courage he and his Men exerted in ſuppreſſing the rebellious Mob, according to Command; but he being by good Providence upon Duty at the Time, they miſs'd him; upon which, they plunder'd his Houſe, robb'd him of his Money and Cloths, *&c.* and threaten'd to murder his Wife, if ſhe made any Noiſe.

Obſ. Theſe are new Proofs, *Roger*, that by *Paſſive-Obedience* the Faction mean nothing but Rebellion. I have all along endeavour'd to open the Eyes of the People, and to ſatisfy them, that thoſe who hold that Doctrine, as preach'd up in the late Reigns, muſt be irreconcileable Enemies to her Majeſty's Title, to the Declaration of Rights, and to the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and now the Faction have convinc'd the World that I was not miſtaken, ſince they roſe in open Rebellion to inſult the Commons of *Great Britain* in their Proſecution, to interrupt the Lords in their Courſe of Judicature, and to attack her Majeſty's Royal Perſon and Adminiſtration, by aſſaulting her Miniſters, and our Lords and Commons in the Streets, by knocking down and abuſing all peaceable Subjects that came in their Way, and by burning and pulling down Places of publick Worſhip, *&c.* yet their Apoſtle, *Sacheverell*, has the Impudence to deny, in the Face of God, the Queen, and both Houſes of Parliament, by his elaborate Speech, fram'd with all the Art and Fallacy that his declar'd Friends the Papiſts, Nonjurors, Jacobites, and High-Church Faction could inſpire him with, that he did not caſt any black Colours upon the Revolution, attack her Majeſty's Adminiſtration, the Toleration, or Proteſtant Succeſſion; but tho' that ſeditious Paper be hugg'd by his ignorant and brutiſh Mob, it has another Effect among the ſenſible Men of his own Party, who condemn him for his Hypocriſy, Diſſimulation, and Perjury, ſince they know what he ſo ſolemnly ſwore, to be falſe, as will appear in due Time, when his Tryal is publiſh'd by Authority, which will make him and the Men of his Faction the juſt Abhorrence of all who wiſh well to Religion and Liberty.

Country-m. Here's another Letter, Maſter, about the Buſineſs of *Wolverkampton.*

S I R,

'HAving a Letter from *Staffordſhire*, with ſomething a fuller Account of the horrid Contrivance of the Papiſts, to ſet the Proteſtants together by the Ears at *Wolverhampton*, (a great Town in that County) than that you gave us in one of your late *Obſervators*, I thought it might not be amiſs to ſend you the following Abſtract, which you are at Liberty to make what Uſe of you think convenient, to convince all honeſt *Engliſh*-men, and real Proteſtants, of the Danger they are in from *Sa------rel*, and his turbulent Party. I am,

Sir, *Your humble Servant,*

St. James's, March 17. 17$\frac{0}{9}$.

M. D.

S I R,

'I AM now at this Town, *(Wolverhampton)* and would you believe it, *Sacheverell's* Trumpeters have alarm'd the whole County already; they ſpeak very big againſt the Enemies of his Doctorſhip, and make him no leſs than another *St. George* for the Church; nay, he's the only Cherubim of the Altar; the Papiſts are of the ſame Mind too, which, by the by, are very numerous in the Vicinage of this Town, and they hug one another, as the Devil and the Witch; ſome more wary People than the reſt, ſuſpecting ſome ſecret Deſign in Agitation from their threatning the Meeters, and ſeveral unwarrantable Expreſſions and jovial Club-Hours, (which I am told they likewiſe practis'd at *Worceſter*) appointed a Watch in the Evenings, on Purpoſe to prevent any Miſchief,

'and

'and obſerv'd a Fellow paſs by, and direct his 'Way to the Church, and coming to ſee what he 'did, they ſeiz'd him in the Nick, going to paſte a 'ſeditious Paper, to ſet the People together by the 'Ears, the Contents ſo craftily contriv'd, as might 'have been of very ill Conſequence before the 'Matter had been truly conſider'd, no Doubt their 'principal Aim. The Fellow had little to ſay for 'himſelf, being a profeſs'd Papiſt, but being a 'young Man in mean Circumſtances, they wiſely 'concluded that he muſt be ſet on Work by ſome 'more able Head-piece for Villany, than his own, 'and ſo endeavour'd to make him confeſs; but the 'Devil has ſo harden'd the Wretch, that he poſi-'tively declares he'll rather be tore to Pieces; 'and in this Humour he's committed to *Stafford*-'Gaol, where I hope he'll find the juſt Reward 'of his Merit, and ſwing to Heaven in a Halter. 'He is the Son of one *Pool* of this Place. I am 'ſorry High-Church has no better Company; ſee-'ing they have not, we ought to look to our ſelves; 'if they will wilfully be deluded, we ought not 'to truſt them.

I am, dear Sir, *&c.*

Obj. The Gentleman writes with a great deal of Senſe, as well as Honeſty, *Roger*; the Publick is oblig'd to ſuch worthy Perſons who communicate thoſe Accounts, that the Faction may be ſet out in their true Colours, and the Proceedings of the Government and Legiſlature againſt them juſtify'd. All the World ſees what black Reflexions their Trumpeter of Rebellion caſts upon the Lords and Commons in his Speech, which he has publiſh'd as a new Incentive to Rebellion; for certainly if the People believ'd him, that the Doctrine of the Church, the Dignity of the holy Order, and the common Intereſt of Chriſtianity, were principally aim'd at by his Impeachment, as he traiterouſly aſ-ſerts, they could do no leſs than expoſe their Lives and Fortunes in his Defence, and endeavour to deſtroy the Commons, who have impeach'd him, the Lords that have found him guilty, and her Ma-jeſty, who ſent her Guards to ſuppreſs his Rebelli-on, and has advanc'd that worthy Gentleman Sir *Thomas Parker*, who ſo learnedly expos'd his Jeſui-tical Speech, and ſo bravely manag'd his Part of the Impeachment, to be Lord Chief Juſtice of *Eng-land*. They are alſo fretted to the very Soul, be-cauſe her Majeſty is about filling our vacant Bi-ſhopricks with Men of moderate Principles, whoſe Doctrine and Converſation has made 'em the bright Ornaments of the Church, and who, according to their Saviour's as well as their Sovereign's Com-mand, have let their Moderation be known to all Men.

Country-m. The Doctor ſeems mightily concern'd in his Speech, Maſter, leſt an eternal and indelible Brand of Infamy ſhould be fix'd, in a Parliamenta-ry Way, on all thoſe who maintain the Doctrine of Non-Reſiſtance.

Obj. He may thank himſelf and his Party for it, *Roger*. 'Tis certainly the Parliament's Concern to put an indelible Brand of Infamy on ſuch as he, who under the Notion of Non-Reſiſtance, not on-ly preach up, but actually raiſe Rebellion. Every one knows, that the Plotters and Aſſaſſins who were hang'd in King *William*'s Time defended their Trea-ſon to the laſt by that Doctrine, as appears by the dying Speeches of Sir *William Perkins*, Sir *John Friend*, and Mr. *Aſhton*, who were much honeſter Men than the Doctor; for they own'd fairly what they underſtood by it, and did not appeal to God before the Queen and the Parliament, as he does, that they ſpoke one Thing and meant another. I think 'tis high Time theſe Things being conſider'd, for the Legiſlature to ſettle that Point, upon which *Sacheverell* and his Faction have put a rebellious Senſe, and wreſted particularly the Lord Arch-biſhop of *York*'s Sermon on *Jan.* 30. 1700. tho' his Lord-ſhip does expreſsly declare himſelf there, that the ſtanding Laws of every Country are the Rule of the Subject's Obedience, and not merely the Will of the Prince, which is far from *Sacheverell*'s uncondition-nal Obedience. His Lordſhip very wiſely and juſt-ly ſays, 'That all that he pretended to, was to 'preſs the plain, general, indiſpenſible Duties of 'Obedience to Laws, and of Peaceableneſs and Sub-'jection to the higher Powers, which Chriſt and 'his Apoſtles have every where taught, but does 'not pretend to meddle with thoſe Inſtances that 'fall under the Cognizance and Determination of 'Parliaments, Judges, and Lawyers, nor to lay 'down any Doctrines as from Chriſt about the 'Forms and Models of Kingdoms or Common-'wealths, or to adjuſt the Limits of the Preroga-'tive of the Prince, or of the Liberties of the Sub-'ject in our preſent Government. And he adds, 'That if a Divine meddle with ſuch Matters as 'theſe in his Sermons, he knows not how he can 'be excus'd from the juſt Cenſure of meddling 'with Things that nothing concern him. Had the Doctor explain'd Paſſive-Obedience ſo, all honeſt Men would have concurr'd with him; but as he has done the quite contrary, he has, according to the Lord Arch-biſhop, juſtly incurr'd the Cenſure that his ſeditious Sermons have brought upon him.

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